

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 DPW-01 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

IO-12 RSR-01 /113 R

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APPROVED BY: EA/ P: AHROSEN

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R 230035 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS STATE 053680

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 22 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. GVN ANNOUNCES MAJOR ATTACK TO RELIEVE RACH BAP FROM COMMUNIST SIEGE; COMMUNISTS MELT INTO JUNGLE. NYT'S FOX SAYS DECISION DRAMATIZES " NEARLY TOTAL IMPOTENCE" OF C- F MACHINERY. ICCS TEAMS WERE REPORTEDLY READY TO INVESTIGATE GVN COMPLAINT WHEN AT LAST MOMENT POLES AND HUNGARIANS REFUSED ON GROUNDS THEY UNABLE OBTAIN VC ASSURANCES THEY COULD ENTER AREA SAFELY. IRRITATED GAUVIN SAYS COMMISSION REFUSED ACT AFTER CANADA' S DEMAND FOR " IMMEDIATE ACTION." HE ADDS: " WE DIDN' T COME HERE TO OBSERVE A WAR. WE CAME TO OBSERVE A CEASEFIRE."

GVN RENEWS CHARGES THAT MOST OF 50,000 COMMUNIST TROOPS AND 300 TANKS ARE ALREADY INFILTRATED INTO SVN ( NYT).

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GETLER QUOTES US OFFICIALS SAYING WHILE THERE HAD BEEN SLOWDOWN EARLIER, TRUCK TRAFFIC MOVING ONTO HO TRAIL INCREASED IN PAST WEEK ( WP). FRIEDHEIM ALSO SAYS " MOST" OF MEN AND SUPPLIES SEEN COMING DOWN TRAIL ARE NOW IN SVN IN VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT. ADDS THEY FACE " FORMIDABLE" RVNAF, BUT DECLINES RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF US BOMBING RESUMPTION IF MAJOR COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE ENSUES. PORTER REITERATES PRESIDENT' S VEILED THREAT TO THIS EFFECT IN GRAND RAPIDS SPEECH, AND BRAY VOICES CONCERN ( NYDN).

2. NYT' S BUTTERFIELD REPORTS GVN BEGINS AMBITIOUS PROGRAM TO MOVE 100,000 REFUGEES IN MR I 300 MILES SOUTH TO UNSETTLED LAND NEAR SAIGON AS PART OF LARGER PLAN PERMANENTLY TO RESETTLE 600,000 PEOPLE WHO NOW LOCATED IN CAMPS AROUND COUNTRY. 150,000 WILL BE SENT BACK TO THEIR HOMES IN QUANG TRI OR TO LOCATIONS NEARBY UNDER ARVN CONTROL. BUTTERFIELD TALKS WITH SOME OF 7000 MOVED LAST WEEK AND CONCLUDES MOST PROBABLY DID MOVE VOLUNTARILY AS GVN CLAIMED. WOMAN RESETTLER TELLS HIM THERE PLENTY OF LAND IN HER NEW LOCATION AND SECURITY GOOD ( NYT).

3. SHARP TELLS COMMONS CANADA WILL PULL OUT OF ICCS IF LARGE- SCALE FIGHTING RESUMES (20). AP REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT COMMUNISTS ANNOUNCE 138 US POWS TO BE RELEASED IN HANOI SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. THEY ASK US TO PULL OUT REMAINING 5300 TROOPS BY WEEKEND AS WELL. DRV SPOKESMAN SAYS HE STILL HAS NO WORD ON 7 AMERICANS HELD IN LAOS AND THEY WON' T BE RELEASED ON WEEK- END BUT WILL BE " VERY SOON AFTERWARD ." ASSERTS, " THERE IS A QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY INVOLVED." US SPOKESMAN SAYS DRV RESPONSIBLE FOR RELEASE OF LAOS PRISONERS ( NYT). POST REPORTS US JMC DEL IN LETTER TO COMMUNIST DELS SAYS US WON' T RESUME TROOP WITHDRAWAL UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR RELEASE OF ALL POWS IN INDOCHINA, INCLUDING THOSE IN LAOS ( WP, SUN).

4. VA.- MD. AREA CONGRESSMEN REPORT HEAVY FLOOD OF MAIL ON AID TO NVN WITH CONSTITUENTS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSED ( W P).

5. ALL TWELVE OF RVNAF POWS RELEASED BY COMMUNISTS  
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YESTERDAY HAD BEEN CAPTURED SINCE LAST SPRING' S

COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE , BUT PATTERN EMERGING OF  
NO TRACE OF ANY CAPTURED EARLIER. ONE UNOFFICIAL BUT  
CONFIRMED REPORT INDICATES SOME POWS BEING RELEASED BY  
GVN ARE MOVED BACK RAPIDLY INTO COMMUNIST FIGHTING  
UNITS ( SUN).

6. COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY CUT ROUTES 1 AND 5 LEADING  
TO PP. US AIRCRAFT ATTACK HEAVILY AT GKR REQUEST.  
SIRIK MATAK REPORTEDLY PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST.  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RATIFIES DECREE SUSPENDING CIVIL  
LIBERTIES, OPPOSITION PAPERS CLOSED DOWN AND NO ONE  
ALLOWED TO LEAVE COUNTRY WITHOUT PERMISSION ( NYT, NYDN,  
WP). SVN SOLDIERS RELEASED BY COMMUNISTS NEAR TAY  
NINH SAY B-52 S BOMBED HEAVILY AND CONTINUOUSLY IN  
RECENT WEEKS IN CAMBODIA. RELEASEE SAYS HIS CAMP IN  
CAMBODIA WAS THREATENED REPEATEDLY IN LATE FEBRUARY  
AND ALL OF MARCH ( SUN). SIHANOUK' S AMBASSADOR IN HANOI  
SAYS PRINCE MAY GO TO ALGIERS FOR SUMMIT CONFERENCE  
OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES IN JULY ( PHINQ).

7. STAR- NEWS ( MAR. 21) NOTES SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS  
" OVERWHELMINGLY"  
E E E E E E E

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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